

Willie Belle Hooper

SEPTEMBER 2, 1906 – JULY 31, 1999



THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1999
11:00 A.M.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
208 Broadway, Newark, NJ

REV. DR. GRANVILLE A. SEWARD, PASTOR
Officiating

Obituary

MRS. WILLIE BELLE SANDERS PARKER-HOOPER was born September 2, 1906 in Dothan, Alabama to Addie Belle Parker and Willie Sanders Parker.

She received her early education in South Carolina and attained a teaching certificate from Marion Normal School in Marion, South Carolina. As a young teacher, she taught in a one room schoolhouse in Marrs Bluff, South Carolina.

She married Manchester Hooper and in 1925 they migrated to Newark, New Jersey. To that union eight children were born. Mrs. Hooper was a devoted mother to her family and community. She raised her children to be productive members of society and encouraged them to strive for academic excellence. Although she dedicated her time and energy to her family, she never lost focus of preparing herself for a career in teaching.

In 1959 Mrs. Hooper returned to college to continue her studies. In 1967 at the age of 60 she received her B.A. degree in Elementary Education from Kean College. Upon receiving her degree, Mrs. Hooper returned to the teaching profession at Newark's Robert Treat School where she continued to have a positive impact on the lives she touched. Although officially "retired" from the Newark School System after 23 years, Mrs. Hooper substituted, and was a support-teacher for the Alternate Route Teacher Certification Program in Newark. In her eighties, she continued her love of teaching by working with preschoolers in Newark.

Mrs. Hooper's professional memberships and affiliations included: Mt. Zion Baptist Church, National Council of Negro Women, Christian Advocates for Public Education (C.A.P.E.), Retired Teachers' Association, Mayor Sharpe James Civic Association, American Red Cross, Essex County Human Services Advisory Council, and the Newark Community School of the Arts.

Among her many achievements, she was recently honored by The Christian Advocates for Public Education (C.A.P.E.), the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. and by WISE Women's Center of Essex County College during Women's History Month. As an outstanding educator, historian, community leader and mentor, Mrs. Hooper has been a leader in the community for over fifty years, working to improve education, economic, and social conditions. She was the catalyst for the Improve Newark Programs, several neighborhood projects and the Urban Gardening Program. Throughout the years she adopted lots, provided flower pots, gardens and clean sidewalks for her neighbors on Pennsylvania Avenue where she lived for over half a century.

Mrs. Hooper was predeceased by her husband, Manchester and her sons: Ralph, Chester, William, Wilbur, Arthur, James, and Franklyn. To cherish her memory, she leaves a loving daughter Dr. Theresa Hooper-Marshall, a dear friend Zebedee Lewis, and a cherished friend (sister) Magnolia Etheridge. She was blessed with 14 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 15 great-great grandchildren, nieces - nephews, and adored cousins. She leaves precious memories to linger in the hearts of the Mt. Zion Family and "her world".

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE Reverend Frank Waters

PROCESSIONAL Clergy/Family

INVOCATION Reverend Dr. Granville A. Seward

HYMN "Nearer My God To Thee"
Hymn 283

READINGS

Old Testament Selected Readings from Proverbs

New Testament Selected Readings from Romans

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SONG OF HOPE "His Eye Is On The Sparrow"
Hymn 204

REFLECTIONS

SOLO "How Great Thou Art"
Laraine Daniels

ACKNOWLEDGMENT/RESOLUTION/OBITUARY

SOLO "The Lord's Prayer"
Madelyn Johnson

EULOGY Reverend Dr. Granville A. Seward

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

INTERMENT

Glendale Cemetery
Bloomfield, NJ

REPAST

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

WOMEN

They were women then
My mama's generation
Husky of voice – Stout of
Step
With fists as well as
Hands
How they battered down
Doors And ironed
Starched white
Shirts
How they led
Armies
Headragged Generals
Across mined
Fields
Booby-trapped
Ditches
To discover books
Desks
A place for us
How they knew what we
Must know
Without knowing a page
Of it
Themselves.

By: Alice Walker

(Dedicated to Mrs. Hooper from her Grandchildren)

PALLBEARERS

Grandsons & Great Grandsons

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family wishes to express their deepest and sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness and extended comfort in this time of bereavement. May God continue to richly bless each and every one of you.

Professional Services by:

James E. Churchman, Jr. Funeral Home

Established 1899

345 13th Avenue, Newark, New Jersey

